

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2001

LB 75

Corporation that does not have the ability to fulfill what they've said. I see they do have an interest in a Gary Williams Energy Corp...refinery in Oklahoma, a small one. I don't know whether that's the same Williams or not, but I assume it is. So, maybe they do have some refinery capacity; it's mighty, mighty small though and it's...it's not as close as most of the other refineries listed on this report. So, with that, I will continue to oppose the...the amendment, Senator Connealy's amendment to limit his bill to one-tank operations. It's just simply a...a...a hope that they can get in compliance...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BAKER: ...by the year 2006. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Wehrbein, motion to reconsider the Chambers motion to the Connealy amendment to LB 75.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Chambers enticed me into the debate here a little bit, some of the things, when he brings in my dairy compact bill. But I'm going to make a few comments about...I struggled with support of this bill myself because some of what, at least some of what Senator Chambers says is true about the free enterprise system. However, I've come to believe in this country and even in this world we don't really have a free enterprise system because we've had various bailouts, if you will, including agriculture in many cases, but we've had a bailout of the real estate...bailout of the real estate industry, in years gone by we've had banks. The list goes on and on and on. And I think part of the reason I would support this bill is because it's an effort to help the...to help ourselves because Senator Chambers talked about value-added. And this is an effort, by those of us in agriculture, to get some value-added. We're told over and over and over again, if you're going to survive in agriculture, farmers have to do some value added. Now many of these plants are investor owned, but also many of them, the ones that are being proposed are also being done by farmers themselves through the cooperative forum. So, hopefully, there will be an increased marketing and an